

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Rush County Line Bridge

and/or common Rush County Line Bridge

2. Location

street & number 11 miles north of Otis

n/a not for publication

city, town Otis

xx vicinity of

state Kansas

code 20

county Rush

code 165

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Rush County

street & number Rush County Courthouse

city, town LaCrosse

___ vicinity of

state Kansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Rush County Courthouse

city, town LaCrosse

state Kansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Survey of Historic Bridges

Kansas Dept. of Transportation

has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes ☒ no

date 1980-83

___ federal ☒ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Kansas State Historical Society

city, town Topeka

state Kansas

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent

☐ good

☐ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered

☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The triple span stone arch bridge is located 11 miles north of Otis, Kansas. The total length of the structure is 99 feet and it is 22 feet wide curb to curb. The roadway lies 17 feet above the bed of the unnamed stream.

The stone arches spring from and are disposed between stone abutments and piers. Stone spandrel walls project above the roadway to serve as guard rails as well as retain the earthen fill which loads the arch. This fill allows for even distribution of the line loads and helps to strengthen the arch.

The voussoirs and spandrel walls, abutments and piers are made from local post rock limestone. The guard rails are capped with dressed limestone slabs. Drains are located in the haunches of each arch. The large central arch is flanked by smaller arches on each side. The keystone of each arch is longer than the neighboring ringstones.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1936

Builder/Architect W.P.A.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Rush County Line Bridge retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, feeling and association. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type and method of construction no longer being used namely the construction of a roadway supported by a stone arch which is loaded by an earthen fill which, in turn, is retained by stone spandrel walls. This bridge may yield information important to the history of engineering.

The stone arch bridge was popular in Kansas because the stone and construction expertise was locally available. In this instance it was post rock limestone. The bridge was built as a joint W.P.A. project between Rush, Ellis, and Russell counties and is a good example of cooperation between counties as well as a well engineered and refined style of stone arch construction.

The use of the local stone and its style makes it particularly well suited to its environment.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Three W.P.A. Projects Complete," LaCrosse Chieftan, April 16, 1936, p. 1

"W.P.A. Worker Hurt," LaCrosse Chieftan, June 4, 1936, p. 1.

"W.P.A. Projects Closed," LaCrosse Chieftan, July 2, 1936, p. 1.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Otis NE, Kansas

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	4	4	5	7	6	0	0	4	2	5	9	0	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

That property on and over which the bridge is built including bridge structure and abutments. NE $\frac{1}{4}$ S1 T16S R16W.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Larry Jochims, Research Historian and Michael Snell

organization Kansas State Historical Society date 2/20/85

street & number 120 West 10th telephone (913) 296-2973

city or town Topeka state Kansas

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☒ state ☐ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society date 3/4/85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

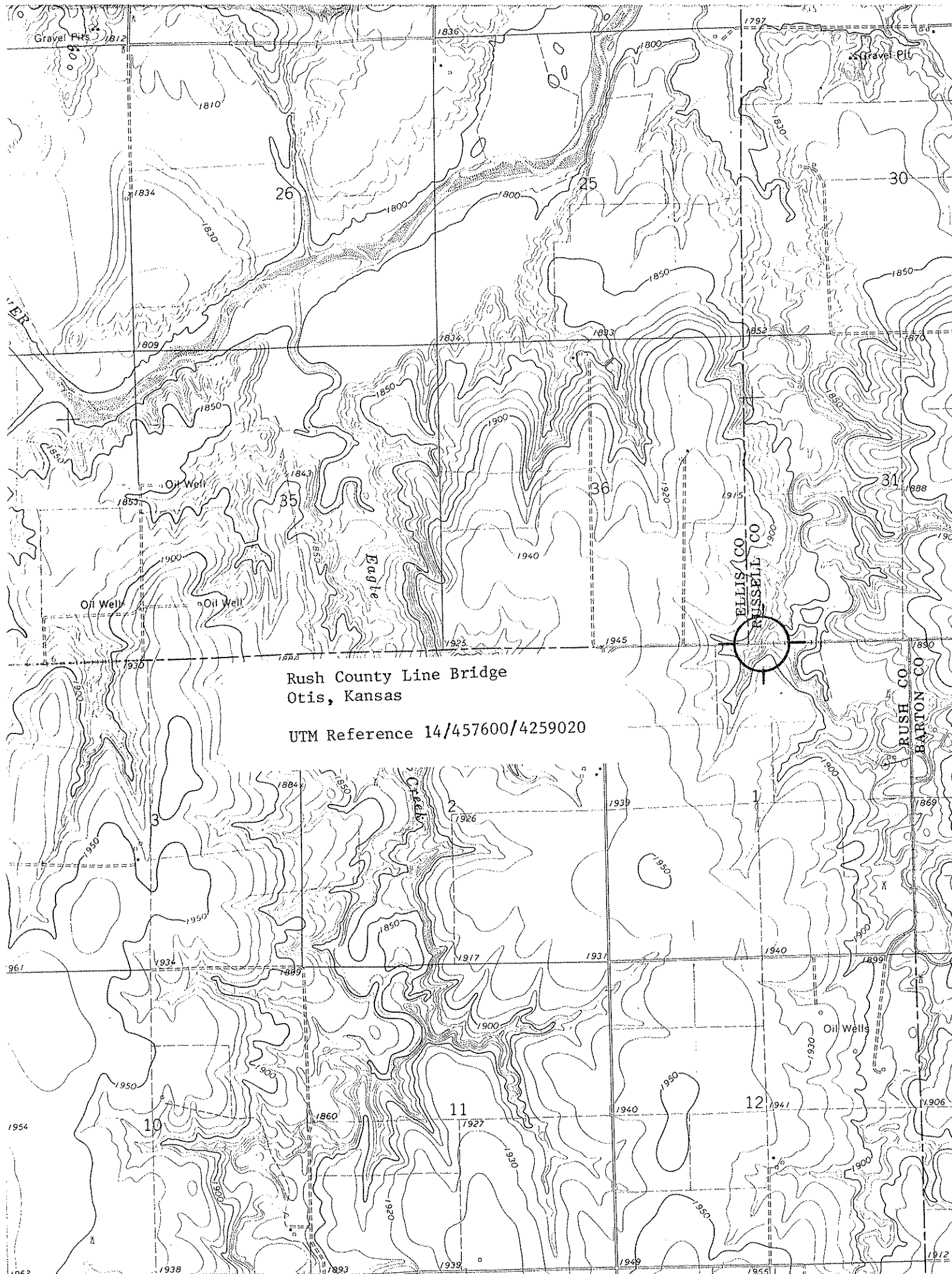
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



Rush County Line Bridge
Otis, Kansas

UTM Reference 14/457600/4259020